



Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Date: November 30, 2003

Subject: 1998 Railroad Employee Fatalities: An Analytical Study

From: George A. Gavalla
Associate Administrator for Safety

To: Distribution

On behalf of the Office of Safety, I am pleased to distribute this report, entitled "1998 Railroad Employee Fatalities: An Analytical Study," which is designed to promote and enhance awareness of many unsafe behaviors and conditions that typically contribute to railroad employee fatalities. By furthering our understanding of the causes of railroad employee fatalities, this report is intended to assist railroad industry stakeholders in their efforts to prevent similar tragedies.

This document contains the following materials:

- Narrative reports which provide in-depth coverage of 1998's 22 railroad employee fatalities, helping readers to visualize the accident scene and chain of events leading up to the fatalities, and the post-accident investigation process;
- Summaries, preceding each narrative report, which highlight important elements of each *individual* fatality, particularly the possible contributing factors (PCFs);
- *Overall* findings for the 1998 fatalities which identify *who* the majority of fatally injured employees were (i.e. craft, job position, age group, and years of service); *what* most were doing at the time of the incidents; *when* most were fatally injured (i.e. time of year and time of day); *where* most incidents occurred (i.e. type of railroad); and most importantly, *why* most fatalities occurred in terms of PCFs; and
- Bar and pie charts which illustrate the above findings.